

**Cricket club wins
CAMRA award**

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Ugadi in Basingstoke**

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**What's on in
HAMPSHIRE**

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Thursday, April 17 - Wednesday, April 23, 2014

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Nearly 90 per cent of children get preference FIRST CHOICE SCHOOL OFFER FOR THE MAJORITY

JUST under 90 per cent of children in Hampshire have been offered a place at one of their preferred primary schools, the county council has announced.

This year saw 89.9 per cent of children being allocated a space at their first preference school, a slight dip on last year's figure of 90.09 per cent.

However, there was an increased number of applications submitted this year, compared to in 2013.

Cllr Keith Mans, executive lead member for children's services, said: "I am pleased to see that we have been able, yet again, to offer

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

a high number of pupils a place at their preferred school.

"The high number receiving an offer of a place at one of their preferred schools is an impressive achievement and is due to the combined efforts of the county council's staff and the quality of the schools in the region.

"I do understand that there will be some disappointment for a small number of parents who did not secure a place for their child at a school of their choice.

"However, they have the right to appeal in these situations and can put their child's name down on their preferred school's waiting list.

"Places do become available if parents change their mind, or families move home."

The news comes after county councillors agreed a budget in January that included nearly £150million of investment over the next three years to build new schools and expand existing establishments.

This would create the thousands of new school places needed to meet forecast demand.

Cllr Mans added: "We have

been working hard to increase capacity at primary schools where demand is highest.

"Predicting the number of primary places required is a complex calculation, relying on annually collected health data indicating the number of pre-school age children across the county.

"Other factors that play their part, and are less easy to predict, are population movements to existing homes in and out of the county and the impact of parental preference.

"We will continue to do all we can to support parents to plan and build for the future."



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Health initiatives get £140k boost

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

GRANTS amounting to £140,000 have been given to health initiatives in the Basingstoke area, following successful bids to the Hampshire County Council public health grants fund.

Projects have been developed by Basingstoke and Deane Health and Wellbeing Partnership to help tackle dementia, obesity and young people's mental health.

All of the projects are expected to be delivered by March 2015, and are intended to have ongoing benefits to help people suffering from the ailments.

Cllr Cathy Osselton, the bor-

ough council's cabinet member for partnerships, said: "This is great news for Basingstoke and Deane, and I would like to congratulate all those who have worked together in partnership on these bids.

"By working together, organisations have developed a number of projects that have found support from the grants assessment panel.

"These projects will help encourage residents to lead

healthier lifestyles and improve quality of life."

Colin Godfrey, the chair of Basingstoke and Deane Health and Wellbeing Partnership added: "We have focused on projects addressing the priorities for our borough in a way that will reach those who will benefit most.

"Leading a healthy lifestyle is something we must all take personal responsibility for.

"These projects increase the range of opportunities available for individuals who want to learn something new or do something different."

There are six main projects, which include training and sup-

port to develop a network of dementia befrienders.

Tutors from the arts and cultural sector will also be working with children in schools to encourage healthy eating and physical activity.

Parents and children will also be able to sign up for courses to improve their nutrition knowledge, and new mums will be encouraged to be advocates for breastfeeding.

Another project will offer support for young people in emotional distress, and research will be carried out into how to encourage people to reduce their alcohol intake.

Group given lottery funding to enhance allotments

ALMOST £2,000 of funding has been awarded by the People's Postcode Lottery to the Hook Allotment Association, to be used for environmental improvements at the site.

A total of £1,978 was given to the group, which will be spent on bird and mammal boxes, picnic benches and seats around the allotment, and a wildlife area in the orchard.

Association chairman Dave Webb said: "Our grants committee works so hard to secure funding for the Hook Cross site, and we were especially pleased

to receive this funding.

"It has gone towards environmental improvements for our members and to encourage beneficial wildlife on to the allotments. It is an honour to be one of the 1,000 People's Postcode Trust projects."

The People's Postcode Lottery works as a charity, with 45p from every £2 ticket being used to support charities and good causes nationwide.

Matthew Trefusis, 6, and his sister Charlotte, 4, celebrate the funding



Memorial for hero sappers

A MEMORIAL service for six sappers who gave their lives defusing an unexploded bomb at Nately Scures 74 years ago is being held next month.

The 25th Bomb Disposal Co. Royal Engineers are staging the service at Nately Scures, near Hook, on May 18.

Fred Gavid, Arthur Hill, Ralph Moxon, Douglas Vince, Fred Warner and Arthur White are honoured each year, after they were killed defusing a bomb on August 18, 1940.

They and other soldiers had been called to an incident near Hook railway station after an unexploded German bomb had

fallen overnight.

While excavating the bomb, it exploded and the six soldiers were killed, while their non-commissioned officer Lance Sergeant Button was severely injured.

Research has failed to uncover any living relatives for the soldiers, so the unit commemorates their sacrifice each year.

A wreath will be laid at the site during the service, with a bugler in attendance and refreshments available.

For more information, go to www.25thbombdisposalcorehlg.webeden.co.uk.

Business gets achievement award for sales

A BASINGSTOKE vehicle repair specialist has been presented with an Outstanding Sales Achievement Award at a recent conference.

Revive! Basingstoke, run by car repair technician Michal Lepiarz, impressed judges by posting sales figures that were 135 per cent above target since the business was established in July.

Michal said: "When I started the business, I was determined to make it succeed, and I have ambitious plans to grow further over the coming years."

Jane Asher makes visit to Chineham

AUTHOR, actress and renowned baker Jane Asher was in Chineham yesterday, as she made an appearance at the Poundland store to sign autographs and hand out vouchers to fans.

Jane was promoting her new bakeware range at the store, which will go on sale at the chain's 500-plus branches nationwide.

"The reaction to the range so far has been phenomenal and I'm planning to add even more to it over the next few months," said Jane.

Questions wanted for PCC meeting

HAMPSHIRE'S police and crime commissioner Simon Hayes is seeking questions from the public for an upcoming meeting about the police force's officers' conduct.

Questions about confidence in policing will be considered, and must be submitted to opcc@hampshire.pnn.police.uk by April 24.

Commissioner Hayes said: "I will seek assurances from chief constable Andy Marsh that the public can trust Hampshire Constabulary in the way it conducts itself in areas such as leadership, governance and complaints processes."

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Pack Lane
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Jane 07711 422380

Tadley
Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Emma 077950 65042

Oakridge Village
Oakridge Hall for All
Forsythia Walk
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Liz 07771 346702

TUESDAY

Hook
Elizabeth Hall
Raven Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Jo 07515 719190

Winkiebury
Fort Hill Community School
Kenilworth Road
7.30pm
Tel: Tina 07810 147400

South Ham
Westside Community Centre
Paddock Road
7.30pm
Tel: Kirsty 07843 276953

Overton
St Luke's Hall, Winchester Street
7.30pm
Tel: Lynn 07885 765341

Bramley
Bramley Village hall, The Street
7.30pm
Tel: Kate 07853 989168

WEDNESDAY

Kingsclere
Fieldgate Centre, Field Gate Drive
7.30pm
Tel: Lynn 07885 765341

Brighton Hill
Viabes Craft Ctr, The Barn
The Harrow Way
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Carol 07976 701459

Tadley
Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Emma 07795 065042

Popley
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
9.30am
Tel: Hazel 07796 158098
"Kids Corner - Children Welcome"

Popley
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Hazel 07796 158098

THURSDAY

Chineham
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Dad raises vital funds in memory of late son

A KEEN runner has raised more than £1,500 for a charity's Basingstoke-based holiday home in memory of his son, after he completed last weekend's London Marathon in a time of just over four hours.

Stuart Hall-Cooper, from Andover, chose to run for Sebastian's Action Trust's North Waltham holiday home The Bluebells, after the help the charity gave to his son Beni, who died aged 18 months in December last year.

Beni was born with the rare condition Myotubular Myopathy, which causes breathing and swallowing difficulties, as well as general muscle weakness.

In the latter weeks of his life, Beni and his family stayed at The Bluebells so they could spend some quality time with each other.

The home is made up of two four-bedroom self-catering apartments, and also has a swimming pool, spa, cinema, play area, multi-sensory room and a secret meadow on site.

"In the pool Beni came alive,"

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

said Stuart, who now works for the Trust. "He was moving with freedom he so rarely experienced."

"In the sensory room he would sit in wonder at the lights, but the magic of The Bluebells extends to the whole family."

"As well as Beni getting the attention he needed, it also gave (Beni's mum) Rachel and I a little space."

"After Beni died, the Trust was there for us and remain so. When Jane, the Trust's CEO, offered me the opportunity to work for them, I jumped at the chance to remember Beni by working to help other families."

"I was extremely proud to be representing Sebastian's Action Trust in the London Marathon."

For more information about the charity, go to www.sebastiansactiontrust.org.



• Stuart Hall-Cooper completed the London Marathon last Sunday

Council offer flood victims tax and rates relief option

HART District Council is set to offer council tax and business rates relief to flood victims who were affected by the bad weather earlier this year.

The authority has joined a national campaign issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government, which provides guidance on the assistance that councils can offer to businesses and residents.

And now the council is inviting those affected by the floods to apply for tax and rates relief.

John Elson, head of technical services, said: "Whilst Hart did not experience as much flooding as many other authorities in the region, a number of properties in the district did suffer from internal flooding."

"For those properties affected, the impact of being flooded can be devastating."

"It has been agreed that the council will provide financial support to the qualifying residents affected in the form of flood resilience grant, business rate relief and discretionary council tax reductions."

Details of how to claim for support are available at www.hart.gov.uk/flood-support-schemes.



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Merging to benefit the safety of our community

TWO community safety partnerships that make decisions on how best to fight crime and tackle anti-social behaviour across North Hampshire are set to be combined.

There are currently separate partnerships for Basingstoke and Deane and for Hart and Rushmoor, which bring together police, councils, and other public and community services.

But following on from the merger of community safety staff into one Safer North Hampshire team in 2012, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has decided to combine the partnerships as well.

It follows discussions between the council and chief constable Andy

Marsh, in which he praised 'out-standing' partnership working.

He said: "Crime has reduced by a third in five years. It has fallen more in this area because of the outstanding council working with us and the consent and support of the public."

Cllr Clive Sanders added: "Residents repeatedly tell us time and again that feeling safe is one of their top priorities."

"By working more closely, we believe we will have a much stronger voice to seek the best for our local communities and for

North Hampshire."

• Police and crime commissioner Simon Hayes, Cllr Clive Sanders, chief constable Andy Marsh and chief inspector Simon Dodds



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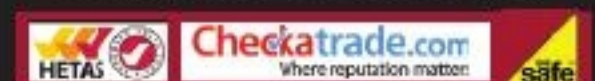
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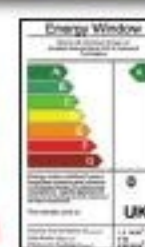
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Tree felling hoped to halt spread of disease

FELLING is due to get underway at Western Common, near Lasham, this month, to try and stop the spread of a disease affecting trees at the site.

Some of the southern beech trees have been afflicted with Phytophthora, causing root rot and eventually killing the tree.

As a result, the Forestry Commission has taken the decision to remove around 26 hectares of southern beech to try and stop the disease spreading further.

Forester Nick Hazlitt said: "Tree disease is a very real threat to English woodlands today, and at the Forestry Commission our role is to protect, expand and improve forests.

"This includes finding ways to identify and combat the spread of disease, and in the south of England alone, we're the guardians of around 30,000 hectares of woodland.

"In some cases, felling is required to eradicate disease, and despite previous attempts to slow the spread of disease, we've decided to remove around 26 hectares of southern beech.

"This will hopefully combat

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

Phytophthora and make way for new, more resilient woodland based on a different range of tree species."

The trees that are removed will be sold into the local wood fuel supply chain to ensure there is no wastage.

Income generated from the sale will then be reinvested in preparing, protecting and planting at the site, as well as planting a mix of new species to try and make the woodland more resilient to disease in the future.

Nick added: "We've not yet decided what the exact species mix at Western Common will be, but our aim is to plant a variety of species that will create a robust and resilient mix of trees.

"We'll also use this as an opportunity to enhance wildlife habitats and provide timber for the local economy, in turn protecting the woodland for future generations and ensuring it's as sustainable as possible."



Howzat! Cricket club wins CAMRA award

ODIHAM and Greywell Cricket Club has been voted **North Hampshire's Best Club of the Year 2014**, receiving the award from the area's CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) group last weekend.

Bar manager Donna Munt received a framed certificate on Saturday, presented by local CAMRA branch membership secretary Brenda Cross.

Donna said: "We are all proud to win this prize as it is the choice of the 600 members of

CAMRA in the area, who we are pleased to welcome."

CAMRA's Jim Turner added that such awards are granted because of the quality of beer on offer and a friendly ambience at the bar.

It comes as the club is preparing to celebrate its 250th anniversary this year, with a match against several former test cricketers as well as a game against Sir Tim Rice's 'Heartaches' eleven.

Celebrations are set to start

on July 31 with a cricket festival, with other events including competitions against local sides, before culminating with the President's Day on August 10.

More details of events as they are updated can be found at www.odiham-greywelcc.co.uk.

• Staff at Odiham and Greywell Cricket Club have been recognised by CAMRA for their work

Pensioner saved from losing £4k by police

A QUICK-THINKING member of police staff prevented an elderly woman from losing £4,000 to potential rogue traders in Basingstoke after overhearing a conversation in a building society.

The 84-year-old woman was asking to withdraw money to pay for repairs to her roof after a man had cold called her home on March 29.

She had been told that tiles on her roof needed replacing and was quoted £4,000 for the job, and informed that it needed to be paid up front before being driven to the building society.

But when the police staff member overheard what was happening, the victim was taken to Basingstoke police station.

A 21-year-old man has since been arrested on suspicion of fraud by false representation, and has been bailed pending further enquiries until June 30.

Detective constable Paul Barry said: "Please remember to ask anyone who knocks on your door for identification.

"If you are thinking about having work done, ask for a written quote, shop around before making a decision, don't pay upfront and keep an eye out for any elderly relatives or neighbours."

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from Ford, Jaguar to Land Rover and Volkswagen.

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More workers to start fixing area's potholes

News Bites

Help to reduce doorstep crime

HAMPSHIRE Constabulary has set up a 'Nominated Neighbour' scheme, which enables residents to act as a point of contact for vulnerable people within their community.

It is open to residents across the county, and participants can seek the help of a neighbour, relative or friend to check the identity of unknown callers.

The scheme is supported by Neighbourhood Watch as a tool to prevent incidents of distraction burglary. For more information, contact the Safer Neighbourhoods Team on 101.

Jewellery stolen during burglary

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after £1,000 worth of jewellery was stolen during a burglary in Pakenham Road, Basingstoke, earlier this month.

It is believed to have taken place on April 3 or 4, and police are looking for someone who was seen carrying a red pillow case in the area.

PC Alex Hall said: "This burglary may have taken place during the day, so someone may have seen something which could assist my investigation."

Call 101 with information.

AN INCREASED number of 'Pothole Busters' are set to descend on the roads of Hampshire over the next few weeks, to repair damaged roads following this winter's heavy rainfall.

Eighty groups of 'Pothole Busters' - 60 per cent more than usual - will be working on more than 5,000 miles of roads across the county.

Extra equipment such as jetpatcher machines are also being deployed to help make quick repairs to potholes on rural roads.

Hampshire County Council's executive member for economy, transport and environment, Cllr Sean Woodward, met with workers recently to see progress in action.

He said: "We are re-prioritising all repairs to the worse affected roads so that we tackle the most serious defects first."

"These extra 'gangs', equipment and additional signing have been put in place and work has begun, with efforts concentrated on emergency defects and safety work."

The news comes following an announcement made by the county council last week that work to fix damaged highways, as well as defence works to avoid future flooding, is estimated to cost around £63million.

Councillors discussed the

• Cllr Woodward meets highway workers ahead of upcoming works on the county's roads

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

impact of flooding in Hampshire at a cabinet meeting earlier this week, and council leader Roy Perry said they would continue with representations to government for more funding.

He said: "Getting £11.5million

is a really helpful first-step from government."

"We'll be bidding for more resources, bearing in mind we estimate that another £25million, or more, is needed to fix damaged roads alone."

"We are committed to continuing to fund an enhanced maintenance programme to improve the resilience of our 5,000 miles of roads."

"This, together with resources we are planning to spend in the recent budget, is testimony to the importance we attach to investing in Hampshire."



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News Bites

Facelift grants for business owners

SMALL businesses and independent traders in the Top of the Town will soon be able to apply for grants to give the front of their buildings a facelift.

A £40,000 fund has been set up by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, which businesses facing on to London Street, Winchester Street, Church Street, Winton Square, Cross Street, Wote Street and Market Place can apply for.

For more details about the scheme, go to www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/shopfront, or contact Andy Dowling on 01256 845349.

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Less pounds on slimmers, more pounds for charities

MEMBERS of Basingstoke's Slimming World groups are celebrating after losing a combined 251 stone between them and raising £3,000 for various charities.

The groups have been taking part in the Slim for Good campaign, with members trying to lose as much weight as they can over six weeks while raising money for a local good cause.

Carole Pritchard, who manages 11 consultants for Slimming World in Basingstoke, believes the campaign gave members an added incentive to lose weight.

She said: "Supporting a worthwhile cause gives a special focus to everyone and real commitment to their weight-loss goals."

"For many members, being sponsored has been a great way to kick start their weight loss, and for others it's been a boost to help them stay on track."

"I'm so proud of what the members in all our groups have achieved during the last six weeks."

Lizi Nickless, who runs the Oakridge Group, added: "Six weeks doesn't sound like a long time."

"But in that period I've seen so many changes, with people losing weight and feeling happier and healthier than ever."

"The really great thing is that as they've lost weight the Slimming World way, they've achieved all this without ever going hungry or feeling deprived."

News Bites

Blood on board

HAMPSHIRE and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (HIOWAA) have announced they will now be carrying blood on board all flights, to help provide better treatment for patients with serious injuries.

The air ambulance is now able to store blood in the helicopter at the correct temperature, using a purpose designed cool box to ensure it is suitable.

Top-50 for Mary

THE Health Service Journal has named Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's Mary Edwards as one of its top-50 chief executives in the UK.

Judges determined what made an outstanding leader by looking at five key areas: impact, communication, patient focus, engagement and mentorship.

Mary said: "I am proud and delighted to have been named among a list of fellow NHS chief executives."

In it to win it

ST MICHAEL'S Hospice announced the winners of its lottery draw from April 4.

First prize of £1,000 goes to ticket 95084 of Basingstoke, while ticket 49446 of Alton claims second prize of £100.

Third prize of £50 goes to Tadley ticket 14649, and Basingstoke ticket 83297 gets fourth prize of £20.

Sixteen prizes of £5 go to tickets 02090, 19803, 22910, 30325, 33110, 41063, 44615, 46794, 47306, 51097, 58666, 65304, 69406, 72274 and 72805.

Lease is signed for pop-up shop

A FORMER restaurant in Basingstoke is set to become a pop-up shop for local business start-ups and enterprise students to use from this summer.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Basingstoke College of Technology (BCoT) have signed a lease for the vacant property on Church Street, which was previously the home of Brazilian restaurant The Real Brazil.

The site has been empty since 2012, and now renovation work will begin for use as a pop-up shop for an initial two year period.

It will be leased on a short-term basis to independent retailers, and will also be used to provide entrepreneurial training to the college's students.

Cllr Ranil Jayawardena said: "This is just one of the ways that our town centre programme is encouraging new businesses and activities to set up in the Top of the Town."

"Our support aims to help attract new customers to the area, making it easier to set up new businesses here."

"This project will really benefit local students and local business start-ups who can use space in the shop for as little as a week

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

or a few months.

"We've had lots of interest already so we're very positive about the future."

David Moir, deputy principal of BCoT, added: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with the borough council to provide this fantastic opportunity for our students."

"Developing skills is another way in which we can help our students to go on and be successful in their future careers."

"A significant feature of the shop will be originality, with much of what is for sale unavailable elsewhere in Basingstoke."

"Customers will know they are making a real difference when they shop there as they will be supporting local students and local businesses."

People interested in taking space in the new pop-up shop should contact David Moir on 01256 306415.

• David Moir, Cllr Ranil Jayawardena and BCoT apprentices Jessica Fuoco and Lewis Cooper at the new pop-up shop site



Funding given to homeless housing plan

A NEW project to tackle homelessness is set to become reality, after a cash injection of £634,000 from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

The funds have been allocated from the council's Affordable Housing Reserve, and will be transferred to Sentinel Housing Association to buy 17 properties, specifically to be used by those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in the near future.

Sentinel will then invest an additional £2.17million in the properties.

Cllr Rob Golding, cabinet member for housing, said: "We are always looking at new ways to tackle housing issues and homelessness."

"This is just the latest in a long line of initiatives which have helped people in Basingstoke and Deane to remain in decent housing when they are hit by hard times."

"These houses will be a great investment for the council, as they will provide proper homes for dozens of households over the next 10 years and we stand to get our money back when the properties are sold on."

The news comes as the council recently committed in its Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2013/18, to achieve a year-on-year reduction in using bed and breakfasts and supply housing for homeless people instead.



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More traders wanted for Top of the Town

BASINGSTOKE and Deane Borough Council is set to appoint a new specialist operator to help the town's market grow and become more attractive to shoppers.

New traders are being sought as part of plans to improve the Top of the Town area, and the council is also hoping to run themed market days to increase footfall.

Stalls will be based across the town on Market Place, London Street, Winchester Street and Wote Street.

It comes following concerns that Basingstoke's current market, which has been based in the town square opposite The Willis Museum since 1622, is struggling to attract enough traders.

The council says there are only a handful of regular traders on Wednesdays, and less on Saturdays.

Cllr Ranil Jayawardena, deputy council leader and cabinet member responsible for revitalising the Top of the Town, is hoping to see market trading grow in Basingstoke.

He said: "If we do nothing, the danger is that the current market could dwindle even further."

"I think a thriving market is vital and we are working on market layouts that use the local streets and spaces to their best for the benefit of our residents

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

and the Top of the Town.

"I believe that market trading is a central part of the shopping offer in the town's historic heart."

"Engaging specialists to run the market will mean bringing expert skills and contacts to focus on developing the market into something that will really put Basingstoke on the map."

The council is also working to bring the Hampshire Farmers' Market to the town, after objections from current traders to having to move to accommodate it.

The farmers' market is hoping to trade on the last Saturday of each month in Basingstoke, and work is continuing to find an amicable solution with them and the regular traders.

Cllr Jayawardena added: "We remain very keen to bring Hampshire Farmers' Market to Basingstoke and will continue to work with them to achieve this aim."

"It is regrettable that so far we have not been able to find a mutually agreeable arrangement that could bring Hampshire Farmers' Markets to the town more quickly."

Dozens celebrate Ugadi at Carnival Hall

MEMBERS of the Telugu Association of Basingstoke celebrated the festival of Ugadi earlier this month, which they held at Carnival Hall.

Ugadi is the south Indian New Year, and saw around 120 people attending the event on April 5

wearing traditional costumes. Everyone in attendance was given their yearly horoscope in the traditional manner, with entertainment coming in the form of classical Indian dance and song.

Celebrity Indian singer Mala-

vika flew in for the celebrations, which were also attended by deputy mayor of Basingstoke Cllr Roger Gardiner.

The Telugu Association of Basingstoke celebrate Ugadi at Carnival Hall



News Bites

Cops out in force to tackle speeding across Hampshire

POLICE officers across Hampshire have been taking part in a Europe-wide crackdown on speeding this week.

The Force's roads policing unit is participating in the continental campaign to highlight the effect excessive speed can have on road safety.

It began on Monday, and will conclude on Sunday.

Last year, 27 per cent of fatal road crashes in Hampshire had speeding recorded as a contributory factor, up from 24 per cent in 2012.

Rob Heard, Hampshire's road safety sergeant, said: "This campaign is all about awareness. We want people not to go above the limits as it will help them stay safe on their journey."

"Those we do catch could face a potentially large fine and a court appearance, along with penalty points."

Neighbourhood gets spring clean

RESIDENTS from Popley Islands got together to clean up the streets in their neighbourhood last week.

The community team removed 10 bags of rubbish from around the area, and the many children who took part were rewarded for their hard work with an Easter egg.

Dawn Stanley organised the event, and said: "It was great to see so many of our young residents joining in on the day, and their efforts made a real difference to the local area."

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May

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Saturday 17th May

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Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Saturday 31st May

The Thames Traveller £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

June

Tuesday 3rd June

Brighton £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 5th June

Bournemouth £ PRICE BUSTER

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Sunday 15th June

Swansea and the 21st Festival of Transport on Father's Day

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Saturday 28th June

Sanders Garden World & Burnham-on-Sea

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July

Saturday 12th July

Aylesbury and The Vale, The Dunstable Downs and The Great Train Robbery £ PRICE BUSTER

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Tuesday 29th July

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Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 31st July

Oxford or Blenheim Palace £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

August

Saturday 2nd August

The Kentish Klipper - Sevenoaks and Royal Tunbridge Wells

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

Tuesday 5th August

Gosport Market & Lee-on-the-Solent

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Saturday 16th August

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Tuesday 19th August

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Sunday 31st August

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September

Saturday 13th September

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Saturday 27th September

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October

Saturday 11th October

Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £15.00

Saturday 25th October

Lymington and New Forest Drive

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Tuesday 28th October

Mystery Tour £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'A' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Thursday 30th October

Notcutts Garden Centre and Guildford

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

November

Saturday 8th November

Westfield Christmas Shopping £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 22nd November

Christmas in London (including Winter Wonderland - Hyde Park) £ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

Saturday 29th November

Bath Christmas Market

Route 'C' - Adult & OAP £20.00 - Child £13.50

December

Saturday 6th December

Brugge Christmas Market

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Route 'X' - £42.50 per person - (no child reduction)

Sunday 14th December

London Christmas Shopping and Lights

£ PRICE BUSTER

Route 'B' - Adult & OAP £15.00 - Child £7.50

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A breath of fresh air

Let us give you some ideas for getting the kids away from all their gadgets...

THERE'S no excuse for kids to sit staring at screens throughout the Easter holidays, says Lisa Salmon. Not when there's a wealth of other fun ideas around, come rain or shine.

On top of the chocolate eggs, many children will be enjoying a diet of TV and computer games this Easter.

New research has found that watching television and videos will be many mums' back-up plan during the upcoming school holidays, backed up by previous studies suggesting children often spend more than two-and-a-half hours a day watching TV, and nearly two hours online.

But although most parents would like their children to do something other than just stare at a screen all holiday, sometimes the British weather scuppers any entertainment plans they may have.

The publication of two new activity guides, one for inside and one for outside, hopefully means this hair-tearing situation can be avoided.

Garden designer Dawn Isaac has created her 101 Things for Kids To Do Outside Book, packed with ideas ranging from quick 10-minute activities like building a human sundial and making twig stars, to party games, treasure hunts, simple gardening projects like planting an alpine colander, and more organised tasks like making a mud pie kitchen or holding a mini Olympics.

By Lisa Salmon

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk



"I think there are parents all round the country who are panicking and trying to think of what the kids can do," says Isaac, "and sometimes the solution they come up with is very expensive."

"None of the ideas in the book are expensive, they're just using things you can find round the house or that are quite cheap."

Mother-of-three Isaac stresses that a huge garden isn't necessary for most of the activities - the mini-vegetable garden, for example, is created in an old pot, and there's a herb garden that grows in a wheelbarrow.

"It's trying to be realistic," she says.

"Gardens are shrinking, and most people don't have that much outdoor space, although they can

usually get to a park.

"But saying 'Let's go down to the park' to the kids often isn't as attractive to them as the electronic equipment indoors, so the idea is to sell it to them a bit more."

She acknowledges children may still prefer to take the TV or computer games route, so she suggests parents could try the approach she has with her three children, of keeping one weekend day a week, and perhaps more in the holidays, as a 'screen free' before three' day, when the TV and other screens aren't allowed on until after 3 pm.

"I'm not anti-screen, it's just finding the time to do other stuff," she explains.

Isaac adds that, depending on the age of the child, the idea is for parents to hand kids the book and leave them to it.

She also points out that while parents might have a problem with rain, kids generally don't mind getting wet, and there's very little in the book that can't be done when it's raining.

Nevertheless, if it's really miserable outside, even the most weather-resistant children may prefer to stay indoors - and that's where parenting author Tanith Carey's Funspiration activity guide could come in handy.

The downloadable guide features 15 activities to do in 15-minute slots, using no more than five items found around the house. Ideas include making egg carton crocodiles, launching a

rocket, or simply kids on the catwalk doing their own modelling show.

Mother-of-two Carey, who teamed up with Flora Buttery to create the guide, says: "Sometimes we frazzled mums would rather stay at home than venture out on another exhausting, not to mention expensive, outing with the kids."

"Holidays should be about spending time with the kids, helping them to relax and getting that bond back which may have been lost a little bit during the busy school term."

She says studies show children learn much better through hands-on play, and by interacting with real people, and points out: "In an increasingly techno-obsessed world, active play teaches kids the vital lesson that computers and tablets are not the only way to enjoy themselves."

101 Things for Kids To Do Outside by Dawn Isaac is published by Kyle Books, priced £14.99. Available now.

To download Tanith Carey's free Funspiration Activity Guide, visit www.flora.com/funspiration



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•The cast of Nabucco. See overleaf for more details.

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Eggstravaganza

THE Proteus Creation Space is host to an Easter Eggstravaganza today, where children can hunt for the chocolate eggs hidden around the building and meet the Easter bunny.

A variety of craft activities will also be on offer during the day, which runs from 10am to 5.30pm.

It costs £1 per activity, and egg hunts will take place at 11am, 2pm and 4pm. Go to www.proteustheatre.com for more details.

Laetitia Sadier

FRENCH musician Laetitia Sadier, best known as the singer with Stereolab, comes to The Railway in Winchester on Tuesday.

Laetitia has been working as a solo artist in recent years, and released 'The Trip' in 2010 and 'Silencio' in 2012.

Doors open at 7.30pm, and more information is available at www.railwaylive.co.uk.

Stepping out

A STROLL around the churches of Basingstoke town centre is scheduled for next Thursday, starting from the Discovery Centre.

The hour and a half tour starts at 2pm, and will end at the Holy Ghost Ruins. To book in advance, phone 01256 478670.

Nabucco set for Anvil

OPERA star and award-winning producer Ellen Kent brings Nabucco to The Anvil stage on Tuesday, featuring the renowned Va Pensiero sung in its original setting.

Verdi's melodic chorus follows the plight of the Hebrews as they are forced from their homeland into exile by the

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



Babylonian King Nabucco.

The traditionally-staged production tells a tale of revenge, destruction and

jealousy, featuring a variety of elaborate sets and costumes.

A number of international guest soloists will join with the celebrated Chisinau National Opera Chorus for Tuesday's show, as well as a group of local dancers.

Nabucco was Ellen's first foray into

opera back in 1993 with an open-air performance to 7,000 people at Rochester Castle, with a cast flown over from Romania in a plane borrowed from the president.

"At my first performance of Nabucco, people sat outside in the pouring rain with the thunder and lightning, then gave it a standing ovation," she said.

"It was such an adventure.

"At one point I did wonder, as I stood on the runway as the plane landed and rolled to a halt not far from my feet with 200 Romanian artists looking out of the window, what on earth I was doing.

"But by the end I knew, that was it. Opera was for me.

"It was a massive occasion.

"Nabucco is a political opera about people fighting for their freedom.

"It was written as a gesture, a cry for freedom, to show that people should be free and able to do their own thing in life."

Nabucco is currently on a 75-date tour, and is sung in Italian with English subtitles.

The show begins at 7.30pm, and tickets start from £28.

For more information or to book, call the box office on 01256 844244 or visit www.anvilarts.org.uk.

• A scene from Nabucco, which will be staged at the Anvil on Tuesday.



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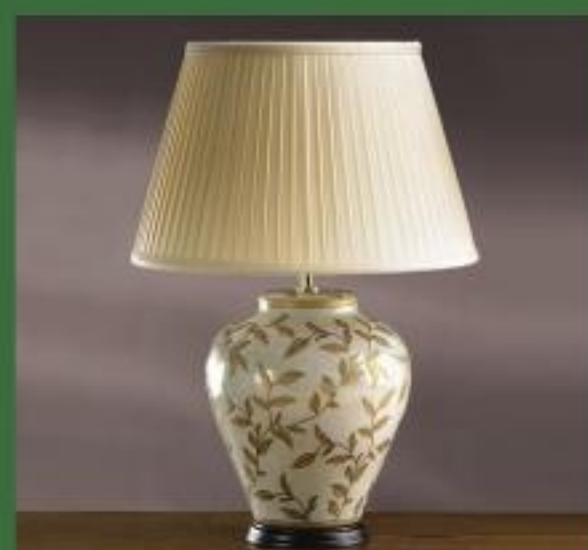
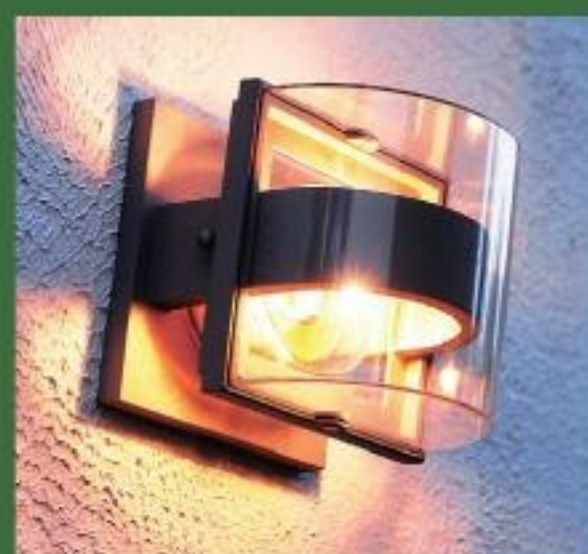
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Cooking tips from a real master chef

CELEBRITY chef John Torode comes to Festival Place tomorrow, where he will be hosting a series of food demonstrations as part of the shopping centre's annual Eat Street event.

Activities will be based in Porchester Square tomorrow and Saturday, with plenty of food, live music and entertainment.

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



John, best known as a judge on Masterchef, will be fronting a number of demonstrations over the two days, focusing on quick tips and shortcuts on how to get the most out of everyday food.

His knowledge comes from an extensive career, which began aged 16 when he left school to attend catering college.

"I am fortunate enough to be born with a real love of food and all that surrounds it," said John.

"I love all types of food that have been prepared and cooked with care and attention, however I do dislike the word cheap as there is no such thing unless you are cheating!"

John first teamed up with Masterchef co-host Gregg Wallace in 2005 on the popular BBC show, and has frequently travelled around the world with the programme.

Asked about his highlights from the series, John said: "Over 10 years there have been many, from trips to India and the Arctic Circle, to eating more dishes than either of us ever envisaged we would do in our lifetime."

As well as the cookery demonstrations, John will also be signing copies of his latest book 'Chicken and Other Birds' on both days at the top of Wesley Slope.

During the two day event, Festival Place will also be collecting donations for the Ark Cancer Centre Charity, which will be used to build a new centre aimed at improving the experience of thousands of people living with cancer.

Steven Connolly, Festival Place Centre director, said: "We are looking forward to welcoming foodies, families and friends to grab a free bite to eat and enjoy the great food and entertainment this Easter."

For more information and for full timings of demonstrations and book signings, go to www.festivalplace.co.uk.



Student shows

STUDENTS at Queen Mary's College are set to stage three different shows at Central Studio next week, as their terms come to an end.

Second year BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Music students host their final two performances next Wednesday and Thursday with Another Number and An Audience With.

Meanwhile, BTEC First Performance students will stage their adaptation of The Wizard of Oz, featuring the well-known songs 'We're Off To See The Wizard', 'If I Only Had a Brain' and 'Over The Rainbow'.

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22 Apr, 7:30pm
The Anvil

NABUCCO
Verdi's haunting and melodic chorus of the Hebrew slaves follows the plight of the Hebrews as they are forced from their homeland into exile by the Babylonian King Nabucco. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

23 Apr, 11am - 4pm
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Please note: no dogs are allowed on-site or to be left in parked cars. 0118 971 3330 www.ukwolf.org

25 Apr, 7:45pm
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30 Apr, 8pm
The Anvil

FIFTY SHADES OF BEIGE
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1 May - 3 May
The Haymarket

THE DEVIL AT MIDNIGHT
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2 May, 7:45pm
The Forge

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4 May, 11am - 11:30pm
Camrose Social Club, Western Way Basingstoke RG22 6EZ

STOKIE-FEST
All day music event featuring Hats off to Led Zeppelin along with a fantastic and varied line up throughout the day.

There will also be family fun, outside food and drink stalls, kids' entertainment and prizes to be won throughout the day. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stokie-Fest/365361226933789>

7 May - 10 May
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SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

Charles Marlow, a well-bred young man from London, is beset with a stutter and a quiver when in the presence of elegant and educated young women. When his father sets him up with his old friend's eligible daughter, he is totally tongue tied - but Miss Hardcastle is charmed by her gibbering suitor and employs an unexpected tactic to put him at his ease. 01256 844244 www.anvilarts.org.uk

8 May, 8pm
The Forge

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8 May, 7:45pm
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0118 971 3330 www.ukwolf.org

23 May, 7pm - 12:30am
Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke
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Black tie charity auction raising money for the national autistic society, 3 course dinner, wine and disco. Items for auction range from sports memorabilia to local spa days, tickets are available at £25.00pp. 3run are the special guests running the auction. 7414915288

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23 May, 7pm - 12am
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Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

	8	2			4	6		
9				5	1	7	4	
		1	9		6		5	
6				7	5			2
3		8				5		7
7	2		8	6				1
	4		3		8	9		
	5	7	6	2				
		9	5			8	2	

			1		9			
1	7						9	5
9		2				3		7
		8	5		6	1		
			3		4			
		9	7		8	2		
6		1				5		9
3	4						2	6
			4		2			

7		2	3					1
	5						3	7
6				4		8		
	8	1			9			
			4			7	9	
		9		2				6
8	3						7	
	2				1	9		5

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 1 Alleviation of misery (11)
- 9 Malt beverage (3)
- 10 Broadcaster (9)
- 11 Insert in a register (5)
- 13 Part of flax (7)
- 14 Violate (6)
- 16 Sacredly obscure (6)
- 18 Cause pain (7)
- 19 Kingdom (5)
- 20 Decorations (9)
- 21 Can (3)
- 22 Place for study (7,4)

Quick Clues Down

- 2 Be in debt (3)
- 3 Wrap for the shoulders (5)
- 4 Solitary (6)
- 5 Absence without excuse (7)
- 6 Musical ensemble (9)
- 7 Curse (11)
- 8 Difficulty (11)
- 12 Respectful awe (9)
- 15 Tapped (7)
- 17 Long narrow flag (6)
- 19 Part of step (5)
- 21 Cardinal number (3)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 Police chiefs can be real snakes (11)
- 9 One hopes it will be broken at parties (3)
- 10 Strike four and come out fighting (9)
- 11 Conceals the skins (5)
- 13 Separately, as below (7)
- 14 Sin-free learner (6)
- 16 Describe being in charge of the department (6)
- 18 Walter's turning out good-for-nothing (7)
- 19 An aid to screen appearance (5)
- 20 How the baker gets a rise (9)
- 21 There's nothing in us to produce sadness (3)
- 22 And I note it's out of the way to the journey's end (11)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 2 Was in debt we hear to poetry (3)
- 3 Chooses one's tools (5)
- 4 Drink to the graduates on the dance floor (6)
- 5 Period certain to be a wash-out (7)
- 6 Wet roof-edge became less so in the laundry (4,5)
- 7 Where a financial drop pleases the superstitious? (7,4)
- 8 Hidden sky sign for office workers (11)
- 12 Plunder, having saved up for a start (9)
- 15 Right to alter (7)
- 17 Confused oil ban in ancient England (6)
- 19 Nothing left (5)
- 21 How to make another question (3)

	1	2		3		4		5		6		
7												8
9				10								
11		12				13						
14				15			16					
						17						
18								19				
20										21		
	22											

Scribble space

Last week's solutions

9	3	4	5	6	1	8	2	7
6	2	8	9	3	7	4	1	5
1	7	5	8	2	4	6	9	3
2	9	3	1	5	8	7	6	4
7	5	1	2	4	6	3	8	9
4	8	6	7	9	3	1	5	2
5	1	7	4	8	9	2	3	6
3	4	2	6	1	5	9	7	8
8	6	9	3	7	2	5	4	1

2	5	4	1	9	8	6	3	7
9	1	7	5	3	6	8	2	4
6	3	8	2	4	7	9	1	5
4	9	1	7	6	5	3	8	2
8	7	6	3	2	1	5	4	9
5	2	3	9	8	4	7	6	1
3	4	9	8	7	2	1	5	6
1	8	2	6	5	9	4	7	3
7	6	5	4	1	3	2	9	8

6	2	5	7	1	3	8	4	9
9	4	3	6	2	8	1	7	5
8	1	7	9	4	5	2	6	3
3	7	4	5	8	2	6	9	1
2	8	1	3	9	6	7	5	4
5	9	6	1	7	4	3	8	2
7	5	2	4	6	1	9	3	8
4	6	8	2	3	9	5	1	7
1	3	9	8	5	7	4	2	6

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Regiment 4 Sped 8 Browse 10 Pogrom
11 Tries 12 Other 14 Ceases 17 Heroic age 18 Penetrate
22 Borneo 23 Ideal 24 Super 26 Rebutts 27 Sister
28 Dust 29 Festered

Down: 1 Robs 2 Growth 3 Master 5 Phrase 6 Domestic 7
Hosea 9 Erroneous 10 Peccaries 13 Helen 15 Agate
16 Lumbered 18 Probes 19 Nests 20 Adrift 21 Easter 25 Prod

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Stripped 4 Asia 8 Polish 10 Foment 11 Tacit 12 Until
14 Necked 17 Golf balls 18 Atomic war 22 Catsup 23 Inked 24
Stone 26 Thirty 27 Gnomes 28 Deed 29 Rawhides

Down: 1 Sips 2 Ruling 3 Pistol 5 Steaks 6 Antidote 7 Hotel 9
Half-empty 10 Financing 13 Torts 15 Cloak 16 Placated 18
Attire 19 Ousts 20 Wrench 21 Reamed 25 Asks



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Saturday departures, 7 June and 6 September 2014

From Gatwick airport

Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name... savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

Price includes:

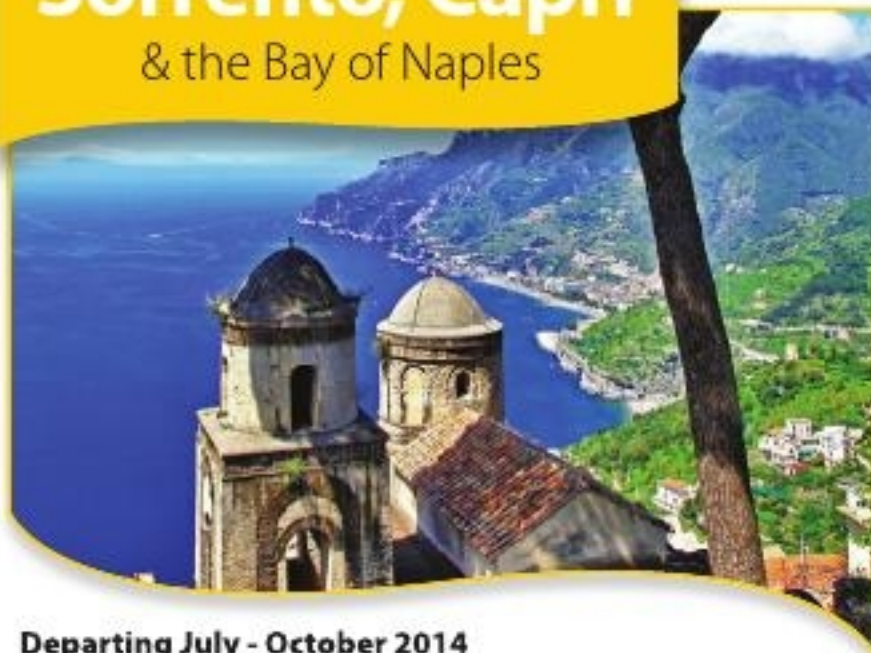
- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Nice†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Piccolo Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast
- An upgrade to the 4 star Hotel Metropol, Diano Marina is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement.
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Sorrento, Capri & the Bay of Naples



Departing July - October 2014

From Gatwick airport

This is a dream of a break among the cliffs, lemon-orchards, olive-groves and turquoise waters of Italy's favourite bay. We invite you to discover the beautiful medieval city of Sorrento, which overlooks the magical waters of the Bay of Naples, allowing panoramic views of the city of Naples, the lovely islands of Capri and Ischia, and the awe-inspiring Mount Vesuvius.

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Naples†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Delle Palme, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi with 3 course evening meal and breakfast
- Three full-day escorted excursions; to the Island of Capri, to Pompeii & Vesuvius, and the Amalfi Drive

Includes
Escorted Excursions

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Summer in the Austrian Mountains



Wednesday departures, July - August 2014

From Gatwick airport

Mountain pine air you could bottle and sell, glacier fresh beer, scented meadows, a history of music and mad kings, houses painted as optical illusions – discover alpine Austria with this Omega 8 day break including flights, 4 star hotel, dinner, breakfast and full day excursions.

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Basel†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from Basel airport to your hotel
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- Full day excursion to Oberammergau
- Full day excursion to Lake Constance and Lindau (inc boat trip)
- Half day on scenic high mountain Silvretta highway visiting Schruns and Ischgl

Includes
Escorted Excursions

8 days by AIR, from
£659^{pp}

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 16/7/14

Malta & Gozo The Idyllic Islands



Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014

From Gatwick airport

Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Park Hotel, Sliema with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
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Includes
Escorted Excursions

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£749^{pp}

Price is based upon departure from Gatwick airport on 6/5/14

Dubrovnik The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 October 2014

From Gatwick airport

The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Dubrovnik†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Grand Hotel Park, Dubrovnik with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to the island of Korčula and a cruise around the Elaphite Islands

Includes
Escorted Excursions

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£749^{pp}

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Madrid, Toledo and Segovia



Departing Thursday 15 May 2014

From Gatwick airport

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

Price includes:

- Return flight from Gatwick airport to Madrid†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 5 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Gaijin, Madrid, with breakfast
- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

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†We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking. The advertised price is correct as of 18/2/14.

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- Macular Hole
- Epiretinal Membrane
- Early detection of Glaucoma

*It is estimated that approximately 2% of people over the age of 40 will have Glaucoma.

*Statistics obtained from The International Glaucoma Association.

What is an OCT scan?

This practice has invested in the very latest OCT scanning technology.

An Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) scan is a unique test which uses near-infrared light reflected off the retina to produce a high resolution 3-Dimensional scan of the retina and associated structures.

It is particularly useful in the assessment of patients with AMD, Diabetic Maculopathy, early detection of Glaucoma and the management of these diseases. The test is non invasive, quick and entirely painless.

Am I at risk of Glaucoma?

Are you over 40?
Do you have a family history of Glaucoma?
Are you short sighted?
Do you have diabetes?
Are you of African-Caribbean origin?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then you are at an increased risk and should definitely have your eyes tested regularly.*

Why has this practice invested in OCT?

We believe this advanced imagery allows us to detect and monitor early stages of diseases and as this examination is not available under the NHS, we make an additional charge for this scan. Please ask for further details.

This assessment of your eyes using OCT Technology will give us the most accurate diagnosis possible and help us give you the best advice to protect your sight and the health of your eyes.

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WIN a family ticket to the BTCC at Thruxton!

ROUND 3 of the thrilling Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship will be coming to Thruxton 3rd - 4th May. The championship has raced there since 1968 and is loved by many of drivers describing it as a 'flat out' circuit.

Its 2.36 mile length, where the brakes are only used twice during a racing lap (once at the complex and the other at the chicane), always proves to be a unique spectacle. With support racing from the Porsche Carrera Cup GB, the Renault UK Clio Cup, Dunlop MSA Formula Ford, Ginetta and Ginetta Junior championships, this weekend is British motorsport at its best!

For advanced ticket prices please go to www.thruxtonracing.co.uk/tickets.html

Closing date:

Friday, April 25

To be in with a chance of winning a family weekend ticket (2 adults with accompanying children under 14 years of age) you only need to answer this simple question:

Q: When did the British Touring Cars first come to Thruxton?



Photo: Jakob Ebrey

To enter more competitions like this, go online to www.basingstokeobserver.co.uk

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Show Times

Show	Time	Ticket Face Value	Package Price per person	Offered Until
The 39 Steps	8pm	£50	£89.95	17 Oct 14
The Woman in Black	4pm or 8pm	£47.50	£89.95	12 Dec 14
Thriller Live	7:30pm	£65	£89.95	26 Sept 14
We Will Rock You	7:30pm	£66.25	£99.95	04 Apr 14
Billy Elliot	7:30pm	£68.50	£109.95	12 Dec 14
I Can't Sing	7:30pm	£65	£109.95	24 Oct 14
Once	7:30pm	£69.50	£109.95	30 May 14
Phantom of the Opera	7:30pm	£65	£109.95	24 Oct 14
The Lion King	7:30pm	£65	£109.95	26 Sept 14
Mamma Mia!	7:45pm	£64	£109.95	24 Oct 14
War Horse	7:30pm	£62.50	£109.95	12 Dec 14
Wicked	7:30pm	£65	£139.95	31 Oct 14
Charlie & The Chocolate Factory	7:30pm	£67.50	£109.95	31 Oct 14
From Here to Eternity	7:30pm	£67.50	£109.95	11 Apr 14

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FARES	Adult	Junior	JOINING STATIONS	Depart	Return
Standard Class	£85	£43	Didcot Parkway	06:15	22:15
First Class Plus	£135	£105	Oxford	06:30	22:00
Premier Dining	£209	£179	Banbury	07:00	21:30



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FARES	Adult	Junior	JOINING STATIONS	Depart	Return
Standard Class	£79	£39	Banbury	07:00	22:50
First Class Plus	£125	£95	Oxford	07:30	22:20
Premier Dining	£199	£169	Swindon	08:20	21:30

Your Choice of Reserved Seating:

Standard Class - features comfortable seating at tables for four aligned with panoramic carriage windows;

First Class Plus - features deep cushioned seating and light refreshments served through the day; or

Premier Dining - features deep cushioned seating, with silver service Full English Breakfast, 'Elevenses' & four course evening Dinner

Tables for two - with guaranteed window seats available at a supplement of £25 per person (*not Standard Class*)

♦ Booking Office open Monday to Friday 09:15 - 16:45 ♦ All bookings subject to terms & conditions, available on-line or by request ♦

♦ Licensed buffet available all day ♦ All timings subject to confirmation ♦ Prices are from all stations ♦



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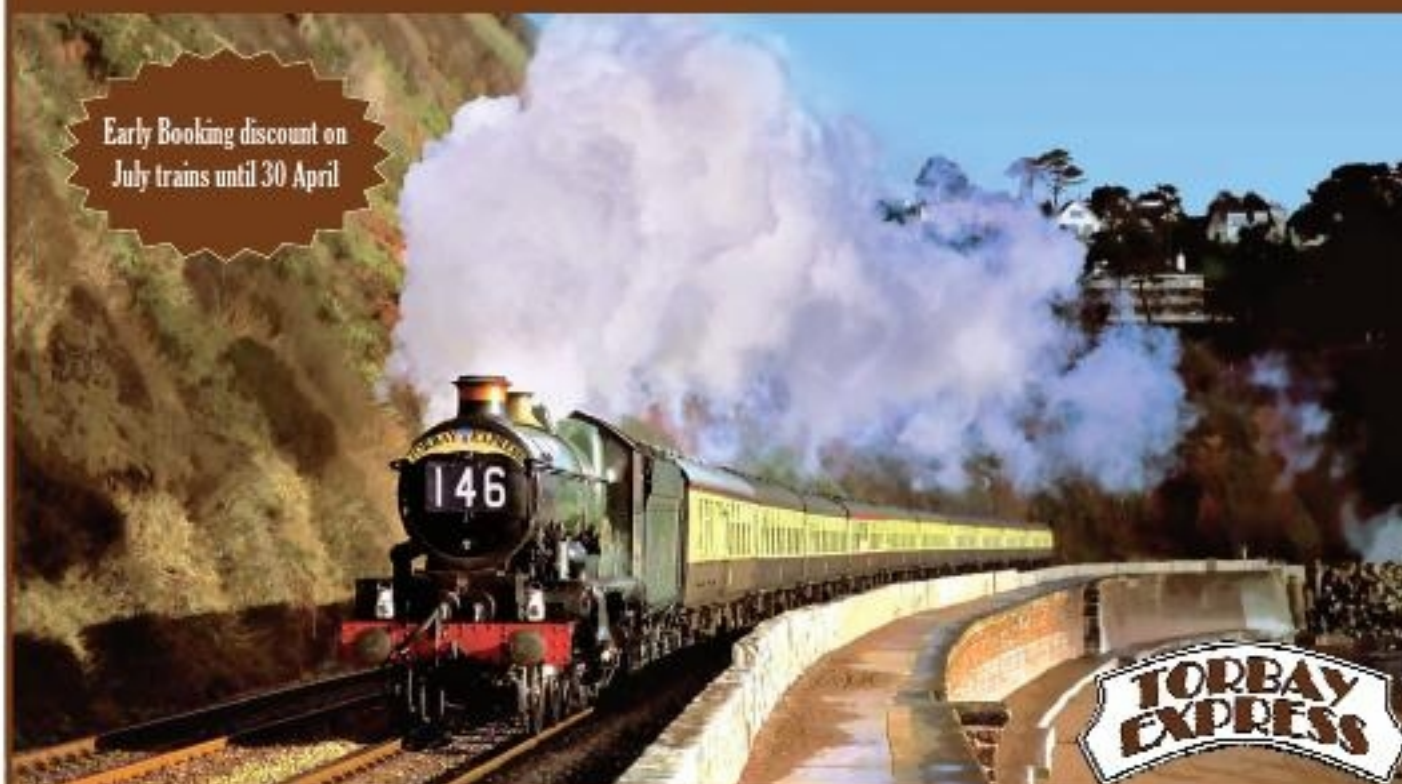


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First Class - includes light refreshments **Adult - £139**

Standard Class - Family Ticket £250 (2 adults & 2 Juniors) **Junior - £55 Adult - £89**

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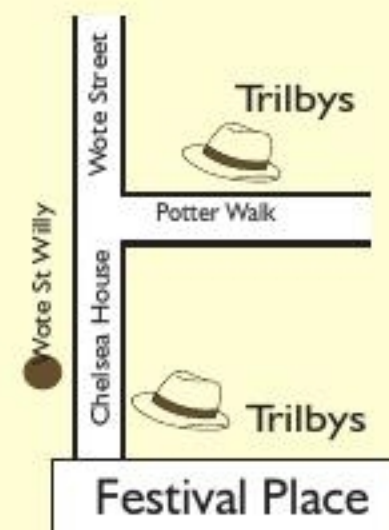
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Prices announced for Mitsubishi's world-first plug-in hybrid SUV

A greener way to commute

UK prices for the world's first plug-in hybrid SUV – the Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV – have been announced.

The PHEV range starts at £28,249 for the entry-level GX3h, which is the same as the equivalent Outlander diesel GX3 auto.

Along with laying claim to being the only plug-in hybrid on the market not carrying a price premium for its hybrid technology, the Japanese firm also says that the Outlander PHEV is the most practical vehicle that qualifies for the Government's £5,000 Plug-in Car Grant, with 5 seats, 4WD and a large (463 litre) boot.

The car's ultra-low CO2 emissions of 44 g/km also means there's no Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) payable.

Other highly specified variants of the Outlander PHEV include the GX4h at £32,899 and the £34,999 GX4hs.

The hybrid system comprises a 2.0-litre petrol engine fitted with Mitsubishi's Valve Timing Electronic Control and twin 80 bhp electric motors – one powering each axle – hooked up to a high-capacity 12.0 kWh lithium-ion battery pack. This results in a claimed

REVIEW: Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV
By **Philip Shoulder**
@writeonmotoring

official economy figure of 148 mpg, with the PHEV able to drive on electric-only propulsion for up to 32.5 miles.

Furthermore, three different driving modes work to derive the most energy efficient propulsion of the Outlander PHEV – EV Drive Mode, Series Hybrid Mode and Parallel Hybrid Mode.

Regenerative Braking also plays its part in assisting efficiency of the hybrid drive train. During deceleration, the motors function as generators so that electricity can be created to charge the drive battery.

The combination of conventional combustion engine and electric operation allows the Outlander PHEV to be efficient on shorter daily commutes and longer less frequent journeys.

The car's exterior style is reflected in the cabin, with what Mitsubishi call a 'simple yet tasteful design', incorporating high-quality materials, giving a rich, premium feel.

A crystal fibre-like dashboard 'envelopes' the driver, and there are ergonomic steering wheel controls and high-resolution, easy-to-read instrument displays including a hi-definition LCD multi-information display system. The base model gets 18" alloy wheels

and includes cruise control, Bluetooth, leather steering wheel, privacy glass and electric folding/heated mirrors.

More premium models will boast extras such as a powered tailgate, wide-beam HID headlamps, DAB Radio, heated front seats, electric

sunroof, reversing camera and sat-nav. The GX4hs adds adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning and forward collision mitigation system.

The all-new Outlander PHEV will make its entrance into Mitsubishi showrooms across the UK in May.



• The Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV is set to hit showrooms across the UK in May



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*£1000 deposit contribution is available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a new Renault Clio or Captur (excluding Clio Expression+ and Renaultsport). Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on specified new vehicles when ordered by 30 June 2014. Clio shown has optional metallic paint, available at an additional £295. Captur shown has optional i.e. metallic paint at £495 and painted roof at £300.

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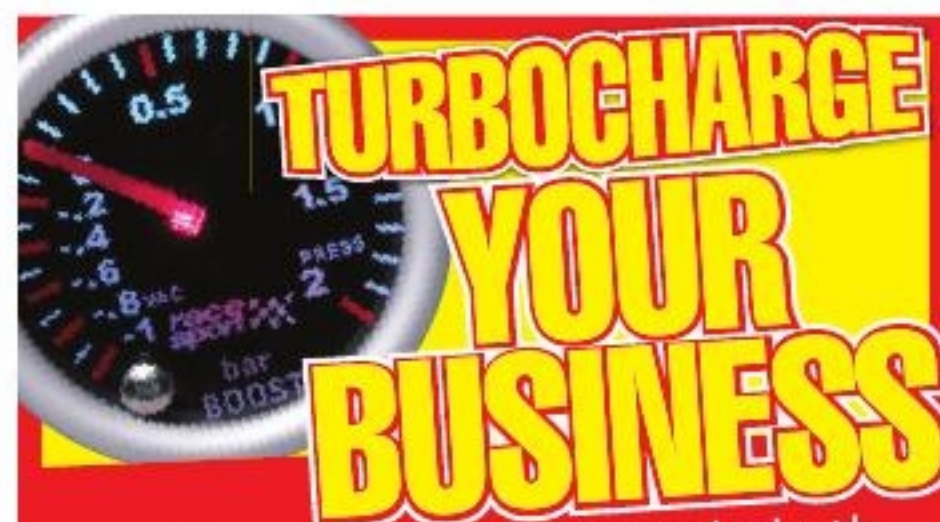
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Croker aiming to bounce back after 'Stoke go down

BASINGSTOKE RFC's season ended in disappointing fashion, as the team were relegated from National League Three London after losing 61-21 at home to East Grinstead last Saturday.

'Stoke went into the weekend

Wintney back on form with Farnham win

IT was a mixed week for Hartley Wintney, after a 3-1 loss away to Badshot Lea last Saturday was followed up with a 3-2 home win against Farnham Town on Tuesday.

The results put Wintney seventh in the Combined Counties Premier league table with 58 points, two behind sixth-placed Windsor.

They return to action on Saturday as they host Cove, before making the trip to Alton Town on Monday.

Elsewhere, Whitchurch United's losing run in the Wessex Premier League extended to six matches, after they were thrashed 4-0 by Brockenhurst on Tuesday.

It comes after two 1-0 defeats last week, as the Jam Boys lost to Moneyfields last Thursday and AFC Portchester last Saturday.

Whitchurch are down to 13th in the table with 52 points, and will be hoping to get their season back on track in their next game against Fawley on Saturday.

Tadley Calvea couldn't reach the heights of their 5-1 win over Amesbury Town from last week on Saturday, as they drew 1-1 with East Cowes Victoria in the Wessex First Division.

Calvea are up to fifth in the standings, and travel to United Services Portsmouth on Saturday.

fixtures needing to win their final game, as well as requiring Barnes to slip up in their match against Westcombe Park.

But Barnes were able to narrowly win their match 31-30, meaning 'Stoke finished eight points behind their London-based rivals.

Despite the loss, Basingstoke director of rugby James Croker remained upbeat that the squad would be challenging to return to the league next season.

He said: "We were disappointed with the result, but focused to learn from this season to make sure that we plan for our next campaign.

"This league is one that has

By Adam Flinn

news@basingstokeobserver.co.uk

high demands on players, and that's what we found.

"Hindsight's a great thing, and when we look back, there's a couple of defining games that could have swung it our way, such as Guernsey at home which we lost in the last minute.

"We now need to make sure we sort out our strategy on how we now go up. We've got super-talented players, we've got wonderful support, we just need to make sure we understand what the requirements are year on

year."

The squad now turn their attention to the Hampshire Cup Final, where they will play Havant at Down Grange on April 26.

They had been due to play Portsmouth this weekend, but were awarded a walkover and progress straight into the final.

Croker added: "We want to win some spoils this season, and we're fortunate in being able to respond with the Hampshire Cup at home.

"The guys are charged, we're looking forward to it and hopefully it will be a good day all round."



• James Croker will be hoping to return straight back to National League Three London next season

Collard and Foster aim for more top-10 results



THE British Touring Car Championship heads to Donington Park this weekend, and North Hampshire drivers Rob Collard and Nick Foster will be hoping to build upon their strong start to the season.

Collard finished in the top six in all three races at Brands Hatch last month, and started from pole position for the final race of the day before finishing in fourth place.

Foster was able to get his best ever result at Brands Hatch with fifth, and was fighting for a podium in the last race until a penalty dropped him down the order.

"I'm very happy with how that weekend panned out," said Collard. "We've shown what we can do and I'm confident about what we can do through the rest of the season."

Foster added: "I'm really happy with the pace I've shown and hopefully I can build on my performance when we get to Donington Park."

• Rob Collard (Picture courtesy of btcc.net)

Sport Bites

Slow start costs Rose chance of Masters glory

NORTH Hampshire golfer Justin Rose finished in a tie for 14th at this year's Masters tournament at Augusta, recording a score of one over par.

Rose got off to a slow start as he hit a four over par round of 76 last Thursday, but two below par rounds of 70 and 69 moved him up the leaderboard.

But a 74 on the Sunday meant that Rose ended the tournament 10 shots behind winner Bubba Watson, and drops to number 11 in the world rankings.

Bison celebrate at end of season presentation

TOMAS Karpov and Dean Skinns were the big winners at Basingstoke Bison's end of season presentation last week.

Skinns was named as 'Players' Player of the Year' and 'Supporters' British Player of the Year', while Karpov picked up 'Coaches' Player of the Year' and 'Supporters' Player of the Year'.

Stuart Mogg finished an impressive campaign with the Herd by winning the 'Most Improved Player' award.

Cricket returns with home match versus Guildford

BASINGSTOKE and North Hants Cricket Club are back in action this weekend, with the first of two friendlies before the start of the Southern Electric Premier Cricket League Division 1 next month.

They take on Guildford at Mays' Bounty on Saturday before another friendly a week later, this time at home against Hartley Wintney.

Their first league game is away to Sarisbury Athletic on May 3.



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See you at the game

Inside: Croker aiming to bounce back after 'Stoke go down | Collard and Foster aim for more top-10 results

Bristow bemoans 'frustrating' form after only one win in last 10 games

TOWN STRUGGLE AGAINST BORO'

BASINGSTOKE Town's winless run in the Skrill South was extended to five games on Tuesday evening with a 2-0 defeat at Gosport Borough.

Rory Williams and Dan Wooden netted Gosport's goals in what Dragons' boss Jason Bristow described as another "frustrating" performance.

Town are currently 15th in the Skrill South table and face a tough Easter weekend, with a trip to champions-elect Eastleigh tomorrow and Weston-super-Mare visiting the Camrose on Monday.

With only one win in their last ten, Bristow admits the last month has been a frustrating time for the club.

"I've used that word so much over the last few months, but it is frustrating," he said.

"We went through a spell where we were playing really well, creating a lot of opportunities and not getting the points we deserved.

"Now we've got ourselves in a situation where we're not in good form and its frustrating the performances.

"The players are starting to get frustrated because they know they can offer more."

With their last four games all against sides in the top half of the

By **Jack Johnson**

news@basingsstokeobserver.co.uk

table, Bristow admits the situation does not get any easier.

"All the teams we are playing have got something to play for," he added.

"I would like to think we have as well, in terms of a bit of pride and putting the last few weeks behind us and moving forward.

"By our expectations 47 points is not enough, regardless of what is going on below us.

"We've got four games left, 12 points to play for and we've got to do all we can to try and get those four wins."

Bristow continued: "Eastleigh need one point to win the league and they will be galvanised and look to get at us from the word go. There will be a big crowd there so it is going to be a big test.

"We're looking at what players we have got that we can take forward and hopefully improve on this season next year."

Simon Dunn returned to action on Tuesday night and is expected to feature again tomorrow, but Robbie Rice picked up a knock against Gosport and joins long-term absentee David Ray on the injury list.

Gosport Borough 2
Basingstoke Town 0



• Nathan Smart closes down Andy Forbes during Basingstoke's 2-0 defeat at Gosport (Picture by Les Chase)

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